

3. (Amended) A medical system, comprising:
a pivot arm;
a ring;
an adapter that has an aperture adapted to receive the surgical instrument, said adapter being coupled to said ring without any fasteners;
a first joint that couples said ring to said pivot arm;
a surgical instrument that extends through said aperture of said adapter; and,
a robotic arm that can move said surgical instrument.

A2
The applicant has attached an edited version of the amended claims as an Appendix.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dunn. The Examiner rejected claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn in view of Wang. To anticipate a claim all of the limitations of the claim must be expressly or inherently found in the four corners of the reference.

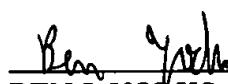
Independent claims 1 and 8 recite an adapter that is coupled to a ring without any fasteners. Such an arrangement allows the surgeon to readily remove the adapter during a surgical procedure without having to manipulate a fastener. This greatly reduces the time and complexity to change out adapters for different instruments. The pivot of Dunn clearly shows a retaining ring 20 that secures the pivot ball 18. Dunn does not disclose an adapter that is coupled to a ring without a fastener. For this reason the applicant submits that Dunn or the combination of Dunn and Wang do not anticipate claims 1-4 or 8-11.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn in view of Wang in further view of Moore. The applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependant upon an allowable independent claim.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4 and 8-14 at an early date is solicited.

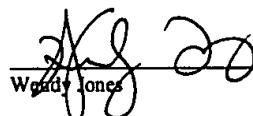
Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

Dated: March 7, 2003


BEN J. YORKS
Reg. No. 33,609

840 Newport Center Drive, Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-760-0991

Certificate of Mailing
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231 on March 7, 2003.

 3/7/03
Wendy Jones Date

APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A pivot port that can support a surgical instrument controlled by a robotic arm, comprising:

a pivot arm;

a ring;

an adapter that has an aperture adapted to receive the surgical instrument, said adapter being coupled to said ring without any fasteners; and,

a first joint that couples said ring[adapter] to said pivot arm.

8. (Amended) A medical system, comprising:

a pivot arm;

a ring;

an adapter that has an aperture adapted to receive the surgical instrument, said adapter being coupled to said ring without any fasteners;

a first joint that couples said ring[adapter] to said pivot arm;

a surgical instrument that extends through said aperture of said adapter; and,

a robotic arm that can move said surgical instrument.